GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:289
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2007
RURAL KNOWLEDGE CENTRES
Singh Shri Uday

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up Rural Knowledge Centre/Village Knowledge Centre in every village as recommended by National Commission on Farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the funds for the same have been allocated, sanctioned and released so far; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) to (d): Department of Information Technology (DIT), Government of India is implementing a scheme for providing support for establishing 100000 broadband, internet enabled, Common Service Centres (CSCs) in rural areas of the country. These centers aim to provide a mix of Government and private services in rural areas. The scheme is to be implemented in a Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) mode.

The scheme has been approved at an estimated cost of Rs.5742 crores, of which the Central Government is estimated to contribute Rs.856 crores and the State Governments Rs.793 crores. The balance is estimated to be brought in by the private sector.

The CSC proposals of 18 States have been approved so far by DIT, as per list given in the Annexure.

Development of computer based application packages on agriculture for providing information/services to the farming community is being undertaken by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC), Government of India under its DACNET initiative and by the States under the AGRISNET initiative funded by the DAC.